

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A knee protection airbag device arranged in front of the knees of a seated vehicle occupant, the airbag device comprising:

 a case that opens toward the rear of the vehicle, wherein the case houses a folded airbag and an inflator, which supplies the airbag with inflation gas;

 an airbag cover assembled with the case, wherein:

 the airbag cover includes an interior side portion with a door portion covering the opening of the case;

 the door portion is adapted to open upon deployment of the airbag; and

 the door portion includes at least an upper door that opens upwardly; and
 an interior decoration member for the vehicle provided separate from the airbag cover, the interior decoration member being arranged around the airbag cover, the interior decoration member and the interior side portion with the door portion being inclined in a front-rear direction from the front of the vehicle up toward the rear of the vehicle, wherein the airbag, upon inflow of inflation gas from the inflator, pushes open the door portion and expands and inflates upwardly while protruding toward the rear of the vehicle, and the dimensions of the upper door are such that a gap formed between the interior decoration member and an upper side of the airbag cover along the front-rear direction is covered when the airbag is deployed.

2. (Previously presented) A knee protection airbag device according to Claim 1, wherein the door portion comprises, below the upper door, a lower door that is adapted to open downward upon deployment of airbag.

3. (Previously presented) A knee protection airbag device according to Claim 1, wherein: the airbag cover comprises a general portion arranged around the door portion; and the interior decoration member is extended to a position rearward of the general portion so as to be supported by the general portion.

4. (Currently amended) A knee protecting airbag device arranged below a steering column of a vehicle, the device comprising:

an airbag;

a case attached to the vehicle for housing the folded airbag, wherein the case has a recessed section at a front side thereof, the case being arranged directly below the steering column, the case further being arranged apart from the steering column before the airbag is inflated, the recessed section being arranged substantially at a lateral center of the case to indent a portion of the case near an upper and front-side corner of the case so that the recessed section can accommodate the steering column when shifted; and

an inflator attached to the case for inflating the airbag.

5. (Currently amended) The knee-protecting airbag device according to claim 4, wherein the case opens toward the rear of the vehicle, the case houses the inflator, and the airbag device further comprises:

an airbag cover assembled with the case, wherein:

the airbag cover includes a door portion covering the opening of the case;
the door portion is adapted to open upon deployment of the airbag; and
the door portion includes at least an upper door that opens upwardly; and
an interior decoration member for the vehicle provided separate from the airbag cover,
wherein the interior decoration member is arranged around the airbag cover, and the airbag, upon
inflow of inflation gas from the inflator, pushes open the door portion and expands and inflates
upward while protruding toward the rear of the vehicle, and the dimensions of the upper door are
such that a gap formed between the interior decoration member and the airbag cover is covered
when the airbag is deployed.